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The British Race of Lesser Redpoll.

By MR. P. A. CLANCEY.

Working on a very large series of Lesser Redpolls from all parts of the British Isles I arrived at the decision, in 1950, that the western British populations were distinct from the Continental and that the name already proposed by Schmeideknecht, *Carduelis linaria britannica*, 1906, could not be used because of the earlier *Carduelis carduelis britannica*, of Hartert.

Carduelis flammea disruptis, new race.

Description: Similar to *C. f. cabaret* (Müller) of France but differs in being darker, the feather centres on the mantle and crown blacker, and in having the stripes on the ventral surfaces darker. Wings and tail darker. Similar in size.

Distribution: The British Isles, most typically from the Western Scottish Highlands and Ireland.

Type: ♂ Adult. Collected in Knapdale, Argyllshire, western Scotland, October, 1948. Obtained by P. A. Clancey. In the Clancey collection in Glasgow.

Remarks: Meinertzhagen, Bull. B.O.C., vol. 73, No. 4, April 1953, pp. 41 and 42, correctly points out the characters of race here described but confuses the issue by using for the dark western birds the name *C. l. britannica*, which was given to the unstable populations of southern England and is moreover pre-occupied.

Irish birds are in no way darker than those of the western Scottish Highlands contrary to what Meinertzhagen would have us understand, but these populations of the north and west, inhabiting peat areas and birch forest, are unquestionably darker than those of southern England and the Continent.

A new geographical race of Shrike, *Lanius excubitor* Linnaeus.

By COL. R. MEINERTZHAGEN.

Lanius excubitor theresæ, new race.

Description: Differs from *L. e. aucheri* Bonaparte in being distinctly darker on the mantle.

Distribution: Only so far known from the hills of Galilee in northern Palestine and around Lake Huleh.

Type: In the Meinertzhagen collection. Adult male, breeding. 1st April, 1953. Wing 113 mm.

Remarks: Besides the type, five others from Galilee have been examined and many seen in the field where the dark mantle is very noticeable. This dark race from northern Palestine is not surprising seeing that the rainfall in its distribution is considerably greater than anywhere within the range of typical *L. e. aucheri*.